

MARVEL

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AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

PART 6

AARON
GARRÓN
CURIEL

REVEALED!
THE TRUE
IDENTITY OF
**AVENGER
PRIME!**

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS



MARVEL REMEMBERS



CARLOS PACHECO 1961-2022

"My friend Carlos Pacheco was a sweetheart of a guy who loved comics, the Marvel comics that he read as a child most of all. He brought an enthusiasm to his work that went beyond the drive of the professional — he was truly invested in the characters and their fictitious lives. His work combined the dynamics of John Byrne with the realism of Neal Adams, creating a synthesis that captured the essence of American super hero comics — a form that was exotic to Carlos as he first read the translated stories but which he absorbed and came to embody like a native. A citizen of Spain, the Marvel Universe was his true home."

— TOM BREVOORT

"Carlos was a dream collaborator who made every story better with his ideas, his brilliant storytelling and his beautiful art. But more, he was warmhearted, enthusiastic and a wonderful person. I was thrilled to work with him but happier still to have him as a friend. He will be enormously missed."

— KURT BUSIEK

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat--on that day, the Avengers were born. To fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

The Multiversal Masters of Evil, a group comprised of the deadliest villains of their respective worlds, have been conquering countless universes. The mysterious Avenger Prime assembled an army of Avengers from across the Multiverse at Avengers Tower to oppose them and the demon Mephisto, who has been orchestrating events from behind the scenes.

The Multiversal Masters of Evil are warring with the Avengers in the prehistoric past, but Doom Supreme has plans of his own, having secretly assembled an army of his variants. Mephisto also led an army of his own variants on an assault against Avengers Tower, where they are now engaged in an epic battle with the Multiversal Avengers.

Avenger Prime's true identity has remained shrouded in secrecy...until now!



AVENGERS ASSEMBLE, PART SIX "THE SECRET HISTORY OF AVENGER PRIME" By Jason Aaron & Javier Garrón

COLOR ARTIST:

David Curiel

LETTERER:

VC's Cory Petit

COVER ARTISTS:

Javier Garrón
& David Curiel

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS:

Leinil Francis Yu & Marte Gracia;
Logan Lubera & Rachelle Rosenberg;
Pepe Larraz & Marte Gracia

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Martin Biro

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

Annalise Bissa

EDITOR:

Tom Brevoort

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

C.B. Cebulski

CAST



AVENGER PRIME

MULTIVERSAL AVENGERS



FRIGG



ELLISIV



ATLI



ANT-MAN



MOON KNIGHT



CAPTAIN AMERICA



DOOMS



MEPHISTO



I FEEL A DEEP **SHAME**
EVERY TIME I SAY THIS,
YET 'TIS ALWAYS HOW
I BEGIN THE STORY.

FOR IF MY STORY IS TO BE
BELIEVED, IT MUST BEGIN WITH
THE TRUEST UTTERANCE
I COULD POSSIBLY UTTER.

THE TRUTH IS...
THAT THE **HAPPIEST**
MOMENT OF MY LIFE...

'T WAS NOT BY **MY HAND**.
THOUGH CERTAINLY NOT
FOR MY LACK OF **TRYING**.

MY EARLIEST MEMORIES ARE
OF CLAMBERING FROM MY CRIB
INTO **THOR'S** SO THAT I MIGHT
LAY MY TINY HANDS ABOUT
HIS MEWLING THROAT.



...WAS THE DAY
MY **BROTHER** DIED.



IN THE END, HE DIED
TRYING TO TAME HIS WILD
STALLION OF A **HAMMER**.

THAT Mallet WITH A
MIND OF ITS OWN...HAD
FLOWN THE YOUNG PRINCE
OF ASGARD INTO THE SUN.

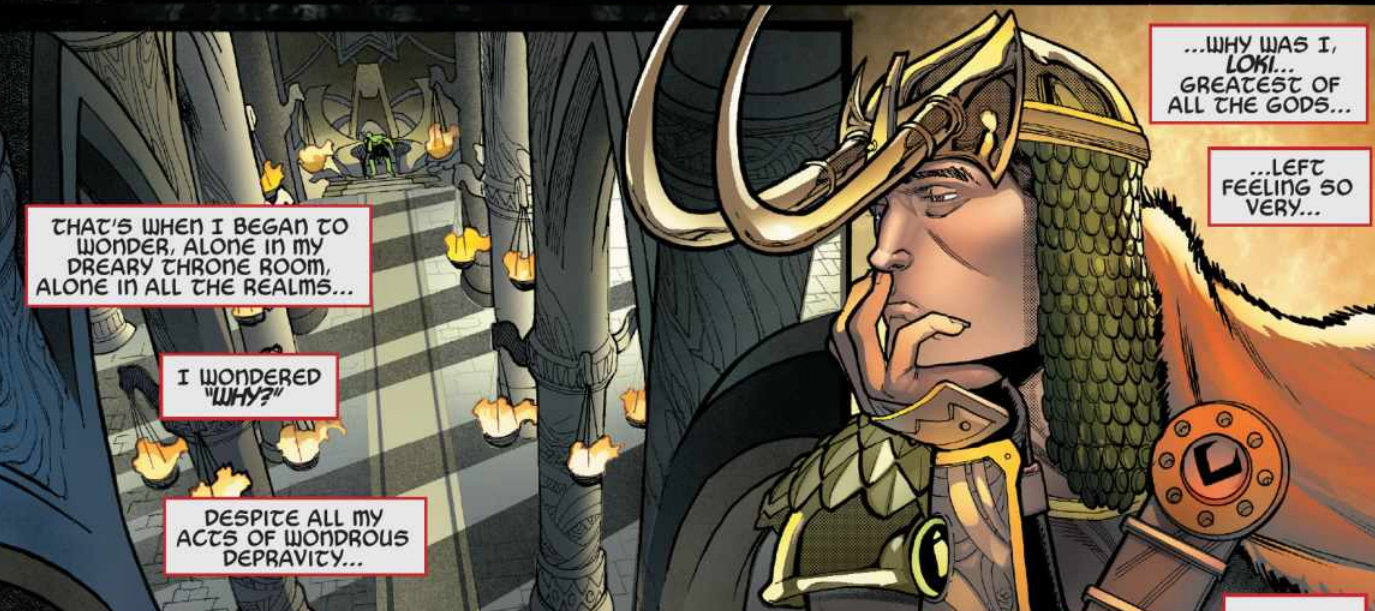
A full-page illustration of Odin sitting on his throne in Asgard. He is wearing his iconic horned helmet and ornate armor. The throne is set against a large, stylized sun or moon in the background, with flames visible at the base of the throne.

ODIN WAS NEVER
QUITE THE SAME AFTER
THAT. I SUPPLANTED
HIM AS **ALL-FATHER**
BEFORE I'D GROWN MY
FIRST CHIN WHISKER.

A full-page illustration showing Loki being escorted by two Frost Giants through a stone corridor. The Frost Giants are wearing blue armor and have long, white, fur-like tails. Loki is dressed in his royal Asgardian robes. The corridor is lit by torches on the walls.

WHEN I SOLD MY ADOPTIVE
FATHER AS A **SLAVE** TO THE
FROST GIANTS OF JOTUNHEIM,
I THOUGHT PERHAPS I'D FEEL
EVEN MORE JOY THAN THE DAY
OF MY BROTHER'S DEMISE.

YET THE MOST I
COULD MUSTER WAS
A **CHUCKLE** OR TWO.

A close-up illustration of Odin's face. He is looking down with a thoughtful or somber expression, his hand resting on his chin. He is wearing his horned helmet and a green scale-like collar.

THAT'S WHEN I BEGAN TO
WONDER, ALONE IN MY
DREARY THRONE ROOM,
ALONE IN ALL THE REALMS...

I WONDERED
"WHY?"

DESPITE ALL MY
ACTS OF WONDROUS
DEPRAVITY...

...WHY WAS I,
LOKI...
GREATEST OF
ALL THE GODS...

...LEFT
FEELING SO
VERY...

IN SEARCH OF AN ANSWER, I
SOUGHT THE ONLY COUNSEL
IN ALL THE HEAVENS I COULD
BRING MYSELF TO RESPECT.



my own.

BOLSTERED BY THE
POWER OF ASGARD,
I USED SORCERY TO
SCALE THE WALLS
BETWEEN UNIVERSES.

AND MAKE ACQUAINTANCES
WITH AN ALTERNATE VERSION
OF MYSELF FROM SOME FAR
CORNER OF THE MULTIVERSE.

I TRIED THIS
many times.



ALWAYS WITH
THE SAME
DISMAL RESULT.

IF THERE IS ONE
CONSTANT
THROUGHOUT THE
MYRIAD MIRRORS OF
EXISTENCE, IT IS
THAT A LOKI
CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

EVEN AMONG
THE COMPANY
OF LOKIS.



"WHY WERE WE LOKIS SUCH DESPICABLE CREATURES?" I PONDERED ONE EVENING, WHILE DISPOSING OF THE REMAINS OF MY OWN ALT-UNIVERSE SELF.

I CONTINUED TO SEARCH FOR ANSWERS ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE, THIS TIME, OBSERVING IN SECRET.



WHAT I SAW... WAS ONE SHAMEFUL DISPLAY OF FAILURE AFTER ANOTHER.

IT SEEMED THAT LOKIS WERE FOUL AND DESPICABLE... BECAUSE LOKIS ALWAYS LOST.

I WAS AN ANOMALY, AS ONE WHO GRACED A THRONE, AS THE MOST POWERFUL SORCERER IN MY REALITY.



MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM OTHER ELSEWHERES SEEMED TO GRACE NOTHING, EXCEPT THE GROUND.



MOST OFTEN AT THE FEET OF BEINGS CALLED AVENGERS.

HUMANS PRETENDING TO BE GODS. AND THAT... WAS NOT EVEN THE WORST PART.



IT TURNED OUT THAT
IN UNIVERSE AFTER
UNIVERSE, WHEN EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST HEROES
WOULD INEVITABLY
FIND THEMSELVES FIRST
DRAWN TOGETHER...

...TO FIGHT THE
FOE NO SINGLE
HERO COULD
BLAH BLAH BLAH...



...THAT FOE
WAS ME.



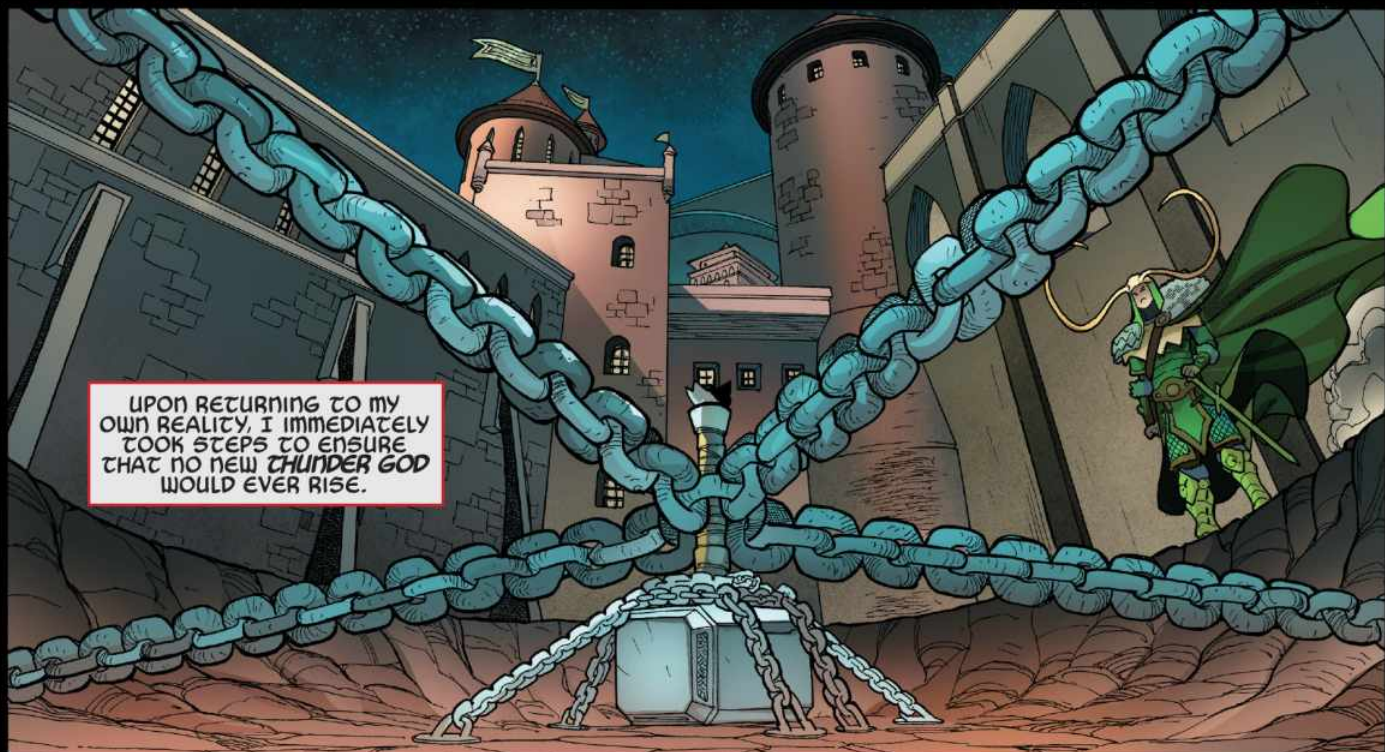
YES, IN EVERY EARTH'S HISTORY,
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THIS
SORT OF GATHERING HAD COME
ABOUT EARLIER FOR BRIEF PERIODS,
OFTEN GOING BACK TO
HUMANITY'S CAVE-DWELLING DAYS.

BUT ONCE THE AVENGERS
WERE TRULY ASSEMBLED
AS THE VANGUARDS OF THE
GREAT AGE OF HEROES...
THEY NEVER WENT AWAY.

AND NO LOKI
EVER WON
ANYTHING AGAIN.

I TOOK ONE
LESSON
FROM THIS
KNOWLEDGE.

NO MORE
AVENGERS.



UPON RETURNING TO MY OWN REALITY, I IMMEDIATELY TOOK STEPS TO ENSURE THAT NO NEW **THUNDER GOD** WOULD EVER RISE.



NO **CAPTAIN AMERICA** WOULD EVER HURL HIS MIGHTY SHIELD.



NO **IRON MAN** WOULD EVER BE FORGED.

I SACKED
WAKANDA.

SLAUGHTERED EVERY
KREE HALF-BREED
I COULD FIND.

SHIPPED GHOST RIDERS
OFF TO THE BRIMSTONE
MINES OF MUSPELHEIM.

I OBLITERATED ANYONE
IN THE WORLD WHO MIGHT
SOMEDAY FEEL THE
URGE TO...AVENGE.

AND THEN I LOOKED
UPON MY WORK...ON MY
WORLD UTTERLY DEVOID
OF AVENGERS...A WORLD
OF WHICH I NOW STOOD
AS SOLE GUARDIAN
AND PROTECTOR...

...AND I REALIZED
TOO LATE THAT
I'D DONE WHAT WE
LOKIS ALWAYS DO...

...I'D FOUND A
WAY TO LOSE.

IN MY HASTE TO
DISMANTLE MY
WORLD'S AVENGERS,
I'D FORGOTTEN
THAT IT WASN'T
JUST LOKI'S THEY
GATHERED TO FIGHT.

THE GOD BUTCHERS
AND WORLD-EATERS
AND MAD TITANS.
THEY ALL CAME.

A NEVERENDING TORRENT
OF MADMEN WHO MADE
EVEN ME LOOK LIKE A
PARAGON OF VIRTUE.





AGAINST THEM
ALL...I STOOD
ALONE.

AND SOMEHOW
PREVAILED, PUSHING
MY SORCERY TO
LEVELS BEYOND
ANYTHING I'D
EVER IMAGINED.



BUT ALL MAGIC
COMES WITH A
PRICE. AND
SUCH A MIGHTY
VICTORY...



...DEMANDED
AN ALMIGHTY
RECOMPENSE.

NOTHING LESS
THAN THE LIVES
OF EVERY LIVING
BEING IN MY
UNIVERSE.



I'D DONE IT. I'D
DEFIED THE
CURSE OF THE
LOKIS. I'D WON.

IT SHOULD HAVE
BEEN THE
SECOND HAPPIEST
DAY OF MY LIFE.

AND I DID
FEEL A FAINT
FLICKER OF JOY...

...ONCE I'D DECIDED
TO THROW MYSELF
INTO THE SUN.



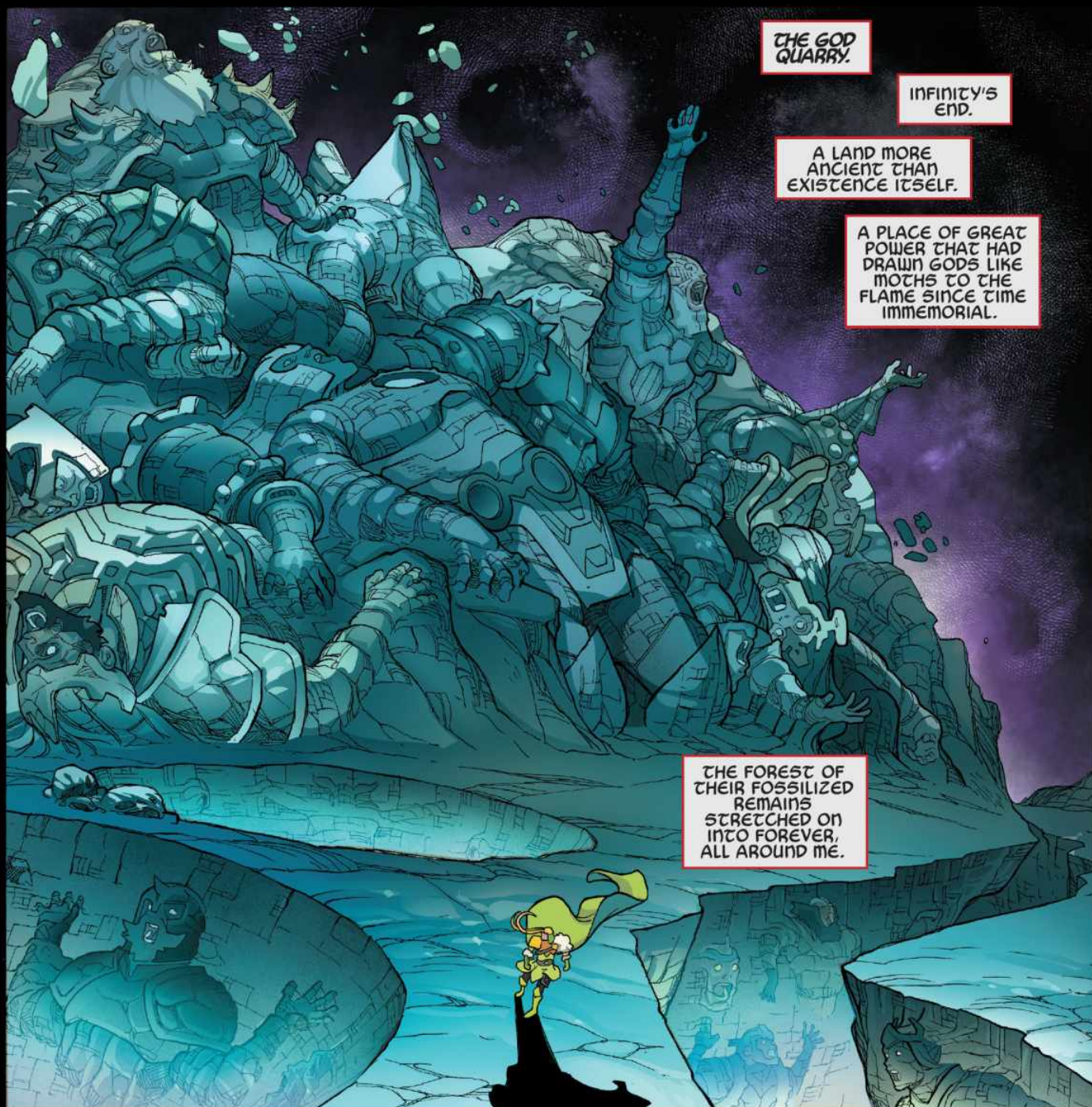
BUT BEING A LOKI...
EVEN WHEN IT CAME
TO THE TAKING OF
MY OWN LIFE...I
PROVED A FAILURE.



INSTEAD OF THE ICY
PLAINS OF HEL, I FOUND
I'D SLIPPED THROUGH
THE CRACKS BETWEEN
UNIVERSES TO THE DARK
PLACE AT THE HEART OF
THE ALL AND THE ALWAYS...



...WHERE ALL
LOST GODS
ULTIMATELY FALL.



THE GOD
QUARRY.

INFINITY'S
END.

A LAND MORE
ANCIENT THAN
EXISTENCE ITSELF.

A PLACE OF GREAT
POWER THAT HAD
DRAWN GODS LIKE
MOTHS TO THE
FLAME SINCE TIME
IMMEMORIAL.

THE FOREST OF
THEIR FOSSILIZED
REMAINS
STRETCHED ON
INTO FOREVER,
ALL AROUND ME.



AND I KNEW
THAT I BELONGED
AMONG THEM.

SO...I
BELIEVE I KNOW
WHAT I NEED TO DO
NOW. IT'S JUST THAT...
I'VE ONLY EVER *SEEN* IT
DONE. USUALLY WITH
LOTS OF *GROVELING*
INVOLVED.

I BELIEVE
IT'S CUSTOMARY
TO START...LIKE
THIS.



AND ON THAT DAY, I DID
WHAT NO LOKI HAD EVER
DONE BEFORE. I *PRAYED*.

HELLO, GOD
QUARRY.

'TIS ME...
LOKI.

I PRAYED TO THE UNSEEN POWER
OF THAT PLACE TO BE ALLOWED
TO TURN TO STONE, TO KNOW THE

THE ANSWER...

THE ANSWER WAS
"NO." I WOULD NOT
BE ALLOWED TO DIE
UNTIL I'D SERVED
MY *PENANCE*.

"NO MORE
AVENGERS" HAD
BEEN MY CRY.

NEVER LET IT BE SAID
THAT THE FATES ARE
WITHOUT *IRON*.

THE MULTIVERSE
HAD SHOWN ME THAT LOKIS
WERE ALWAYS FATED TO BE
THE FORCE THAT BROUGHT
THE AVENGERS TOGETHER.

SO, AS THE GREATEST
LOKI WHO HAD EVER LIVED...

...(THIS IS NOT ME
BOASTING, THIS IS
SIMPLY *COSMIC FACT*)...

...THAT
MEANT IT
WAS UP
TO ME...





...TO ASSEMBLE THE
MIGHTIEST AVENGERS
IN ALL OF INFINITY.



WHEN IT WAS DONE,
I CONFESSED TO THE
ASSEMBLED HEROES
MY MANY CRIMES.

SOME WISHED ME DEAD.
OTHERS WANTED TO SEE
ME MAN THIS TOWER FOR
FOREVER AND A DAY, SERVING
AN ETERNAL SENTENCE.

THEY ALL CAME
AND WENT OVER THE
EONS, AS NEEDED.



THE **DEATHLOKS** WERE
MY MOST TRUSTED
SOLDIERS. ALL GONE
NOW. GODS BLESS
THEIR NECRO-SOULS.

FOR SO LONG, WE OPERATED IN THE SHADOWS
HERE. BUT NOW I FIND MYSELF NEEDING TO
MAKE FIRST CONTACT WITH THE AVENGERS
OF A PARTICULAR UNIVERSE.



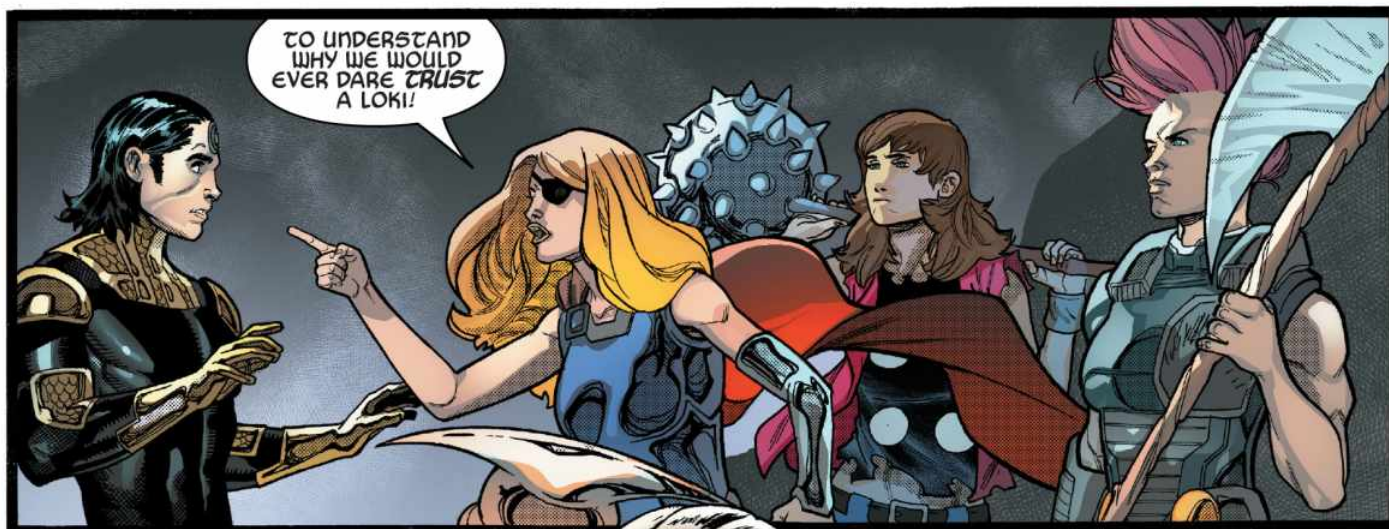
I GENERALLY FIND
IT'S BEST TO
EASE THEM INTO
THE STORY.

LET'S HOPE
THEIR THOR
CAN TAKE A
JOKE.

THAT WAY, WE
CAN HOPEFULLY
AVOID ANY
UNFORESEEN...











EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES **THE AVENGERS**



AVENGERS FOREVER #14 **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE: PART SEVEN**

The mightiest heroes of the Multiverse. The protectors of the prehistoric Earth. And the mainstay Avengers of the present-day Marvel Universe. At last, they all stand together, in one place, united against a common foe.

What enemy could dare stand against the greatest force ever assembled? Here comes Doom the Living Planet with the answer.



AVENGERS #66 AVENGERS ASSEMBLE: PART EIGHT

In the dark heart of all that is, the battle to save the entire Multiverse is raging, featuring a cast of Avengers that staggers the imagination. And the full extent of Mephisto's plan finally comes into shocking focus.

